

THE POLICE CORPS WEEKLY

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RECRUIT PROFILE

MICHAEL WALLACE



- SPONSORING AGENCY: Appleton P.D.
- AGE: 23
- HOMETOWN: Sheboygan, WI
- COLLEGE: UW Oshkosh
- MAJOR: Criminal Justice
- HOBBIES/INTERESTS: Hunting, fishing, waterskiing.



STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING: BY: RECRUIT KASTERN

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of week thirteen, the group received classroom instruction on how to perform Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. This included the specifics on how to examine someone using the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus Test, Walk and Turn Test, and the One Leg Stand Test. These are performed in order to determine if a driver is too impaired to operate their vehicle. After watching demonstrations by troopers, the students pulled out their lighted pens and got busy making their classmates walk imaginary lines, stand on one leg, and track the lighted stimulus with only their eyes. Finally, four volunteers came to the academy and spent the morning consuming liquor, while logging the ounces of alcohol and keeping record of their blood-alcohol concentration. The class then broke up into groups and had their turn performing all of the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests on each of the volunteer drinkers. The groups determined whom they thought was more intoxicated than the legal driving limit allowed (.08), and had to tell whether or not they would arrest each person. Overall, the class had



Recruit Hamill gives Recruit Opperman the One-Leg Stand Field Sobriety Test.

estimated the blood-alcohol concentration levels fairly accurately, and the drinkers had acknowledged that they too learned a lot about their own intoxication levels.

When considering the accuracy of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus Test, it has been determined to have a 77% accuracy rate of showing someone who has a blood-alcohol concentration of more than .10%. This means that out of the six possible clues which could be evident during the HGN tasks, the tester has to view four clues. The Walk and Turn Test has eight possi-

ble clues, and if two are present, there is a 68% accuracy rate. When these two tests are paired together, studies have shown that the accuracy rate of showing someone who is above the .10% BAC limit, is 80%. These skills are essential to any police officer patrolling the streets and making them safer for the citizens within the communities.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF OWI: RECRUIT KRAEGER

On Sunday night, the class was instructed on the laws concerning OWI. All states and many local jurisdictions have their own impaired driving laws. While the specific language of these laws may vary significantly, most include the following provisions: a basic OWI law; an implied consent law; an illegal per se law; and a preliminary breath testing law.

The basic OWI statute is as follows: "It is unlawful for any person to operate or be in actual physical control of any vehicle within this state while

under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs." The elements needed for a law enforcement officer to make an arrest is that the officer must believe that: the person in question, was operating or in actual physical control of, a motor vehicle, according to specific provisions in various states, while under the influence of alcohol, another drug, or both.

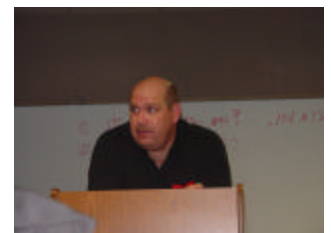
The purpose of the Implied Consent Law is to encourage people arrested for OWI to submit to a chemical test to provide scientific evidence of alcohol influence.

The implied consent law includes language similar to the following: "Any person who operates or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state shall be deemed to have given consent to a chemical test for the purpose of determining the alcohol and/or drug content of blood when arrested for any acts alleged to have been committed while the person was operating or in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs"

Pictures from Week 13



"Now, recruits are much better prepared to effectively remove drunk drivers from the highways and roads of their communities."



SCENARIOS: RECRUIT HAMILL

This week, recruits were able to put their training of standardized field sobriety testing (SFST) into action. Recruits were challenged with a simulated-scenario, involving the arrest of an individual for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (OMVWI). This scenario also involved a great deal of past training that the recruits have received, such as vehicle contacts, professional communications, and defense and arrest tactics (DAAT).

The scenario consisted of one recruit

acting as a role player, while being stopped for an equipment violation. Another recruit then played the role of the arresting police officer. The recruit acting as the police officer had to first assess the situation. The recruit then had to determine if an SFST was necessary, and if so, to administer the tests. Recruits then had to determine if there was probable cause for an arrest. If enough probable cause was proven, the recruit was to then make the arrest and complete the necessary paperwork for processing the sub-

ject.

This scenario gave recruits good experience in detecting and processing OMVWI violators while incorporating prior training techniques. These scenarios resembled a familiar scene that many of us will see often when we get out on the road. Now, recruits are much better prepared to effectively remove drunk drivers from the highways and roads of their communities.